

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SSO-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049737

E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

### 1. SOMALIS GET IT OFF THEIR CHESTS

EMBASSY MOGADISCIO BELIEVES DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE'S MEETINGS MARCH 1-3 WITH PRESIDENT SIAD AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AMPLY DEMONSTRATED THE POLITICAL CHASM SEPARATING THE US AND SOMALIA, BUT LEFT THE DOOR AJAR FOR A POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS. BOTH SIAD AND OTHER OFFICIALS TREATED SEELYE TO LONG, SOMETIMES RAMBLING COMPLAINTS ABOUT ALLEGED US EFFORTS TO FRUSTRATE SOMALI EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL UNITY. SIAD EMPHASIZED THE CENTRAL ROLE ETHIOPIA PLAYS IN SOMALIA'S STRATEGIC THINKING, AND LINKED RELATIONS  
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WITH THE US AND THE USSR TO THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS IN SOMALIA'S LONG-TERM STRUGGLE WITH ETHIOPIAN "IMPERIALISM" IN DJIBOUTI, ERITREA, AND THE OGADEN. HE ALSO DECLARED THAT:

--THE SOVIETS HAD RECEIVED NO QUID PRO QUO FOR THEIR AID.

--HE WAS NOT ANTI-AMERICAN AND HOPED FOR IMPROVED

RELATIONS WITH THE US.

--HIS OWN FAMILY CAME FROM THE OGADEN, WHICH HE IS  
DETERMINED TO UNIFY WITH SOMALIA.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THESE MEETINGS CLEARLY SHOW A POTENTIAL  
FOR SOMEWHAT IMPROVED RELATIONS. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THE  
US SHOULD NOW MAKE SOME TANGIBLE GESTURE TO DEMONSTRATE  
ITS DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM. (CONFIDENTIAL)  
MOGADISCIO 364 AND 365, 3/6.

## 2. EMPTY SUITCASES FOR SINO-SOVIET NEGOTIATORS

EMBASSY MOSCOW REPORTS THAT BOTH A TOP SOVIET CHINA  
SPECIALIST AND THE PRC CHARGE IN MOSCOW SAY NEITHER SIDE  
OFFERED ANY NEW PROPOSALS IN THE JUST-COMPLETED ROUND OF  
SINO-SOVIET BORDER TALKS IN PEKING. DEPUTY MFA CHINESE  
AFFAIRS CHIEF POTAPENKO TOLD THE EMBASSY MARCH 2 THAT:

--THE TALKS WERE NOT INTENDED AS A PROBE OF THE  
POST-MAO CHINESE LEADERSHIP'S NEW ATTITUDES TOWARDS  
MOSCOW, BUT MERELY TO TAKE UP ROUTINE BORDER NEGOTIATIONS  
WHERE THEY HAD LEFT OFF.

--DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER IL'ICHEV'S RETURN TO  
MOSCOW WAS ALSO ROUTINE, AND SHOULD NOT BE READ AS A  
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"BREAKDOWN" OF THE TALKS.

--SO FAR AS MOSCOW COULD SEE, CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY  
HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE THE DEATH OF MAO.

PRC CHARGE WANG CHIN-CHING AGREED THAT NO NEW PROPOSALS  
HAD BEEN MADE, TELLING A WEST EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT THAT  
IL'ICHEV "WENT WITH AN EMPTY SUITCASE, AND HE CAME BACK  
WITH AN EMPTY SUITCASE." (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 3003, 3/5.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MORNING SUMMARY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, NEGOTIATIONS, BORDER CONTROLS  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009